

KIDS—YOUR CHANCE FOR FAME
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COMMUNITY CENTER—page 7

GRAPESVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

VOL II, NO 2

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1987



STUDENT PARTICIPANTS PRACTICE THEIR VARIOUS FORMATIONS
Photo by Nancy Kerns

Get Your Kicks After School

By Nancy Kerns

"Young Ladies, please; I'd like to have your attention." That's all it takes for Madeline Robinson to be heard by this group of young people who are spending their after-school hours practicing dance routines.

Robinson is a counselor at Visitacion Valley Middle School, but spends her after-school hours supervising "any number of kids", (usually around ten) that show up for her after-school program.

Continued on Page 5

Performing and Visual Arts at Candlestick Point Soon

Early this spring construction will begin on a dramatic 10,000 square foot performing arts center on a barren stretch of fill land stolen many years ago from San Francisco Bay. Dedicated to celebrating the multiracial nature of San Francisco, this 500 seat auditorium facing a greensward about 300 yards long will be built at Candlestick Point Recreation Area.

Termed, "Marina Green East" by Assemblyman Art Agnos (DSan Francisco), whose first bill as a freshman legislator in 1976 called for creating the park, "It (the greensward)

will be spacious enough to accommodate more than 20,000 people at outdoor concerts."

"The Center is designed to serve a multiracial population," said Carol Nelson, district superintendent of Candlestick and a 16 year veteran of the State Park system. "It will be home to all kinds of performing arts music, dance, theatrical productions, rock concerts, opera and to visual art exhibits. It's meant to be very flexible. The Center will have a well-equipped kitchen since food is such an important part of so many ethnic events."

Continued on Page 5

A Dream Come True

King's Birthday Present —A New School

By Pat Christensen

San Francisco's newest school, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Academic Middle School on Gerard Street in the Portola district was dedicated on January 15 in the school gymnasium before a capacity crowd.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an exemplary scholar," said Dr. Sidonia Wilson, newly elected president of the San Francisco School Board, "You have a great challenge here to live up to his standards of academic excellence. I will be watching your progress."

The dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. was a recurring theme throughout the dedication ceremonies. Rev. Victor Medearis, Pastor of Double Rock Baptist Church,

extolled the student body, "If we don't begin to inform and educate the young people of your generation, we will lose the impact of Dr. King...you help us lead the parade...in helping us to inform and educate your generation so that the dream will not become a nightmare."

The building, designed by Marshall & Lee Architects and planned by parents, students, teachers and community people, features state-of-the-art educational facilities including six science laboratories, two computer labs, a library and media center and a resource room for its 550 students. The cost of construction and rehabilitation of existing structures was \$7,000,000.

Continued on Page 5

The Black Experience

By Derrick K. Dogan

There's been some great Black leaders, such as Martin Luther King Who preached of peace and love and shared with us his dream.

And there was Malcolm X, who had a master plan to establish a Black nation in the motherland.

Harriet Tubman is another whose story has been told; she led many slaves to freedom through her "Underground Railroad."

They all had faith in their Saviour, a stronger force than they; who gave to them their courage, guided each in his own way

They all strived toward one thing, a single goal to meet. This one great motivation; The desire that Blacks be free

And, today, brothers and sisters we, too, should have this common goal; To stand in Christian love as Blacks did long ago.

To depend on one another, To help in times of need, To continue the tradition So that we'll indeed be free.

So listen to the memories. Imagine if you can. The voices of our people from a distant land.

Praying to our Father for their strength to be renewed. Singing songs of Freedom to help them make it through.

Oh freedom, oh freedom we'll pray for once again And if there can't be freedom, we'll steal away to HIM.

CENTERVOICE

By Julia Kavanagh

So many people are alarmed at the level of violence in our neighborhood, our country...our world. I've been wondering what the key is to eliminating this violence and helping my neighbors understand each other and look out for each other's welfare.

We have allowed the creation of artificial boundaries between us called "Countries", "States", "Cities" by those with political concerns. Increasingly these boundries are being set by criteria that is important only to those who set the boundaries and ask us to accept them. Instead of creating a community around the nearest water well, a community is created to include voters on the other side of the mountain from the political party of the politician's choice.

Visitacion Valley is a

physical, geographical area that is surrounded by hills and the San Francisco Bay, yet we are defined by some long forgotten political concern. Two Counties cut the Valley in half. The San Francisco Police Department makes us part of the Potrero District. The Health Department sometimes calls us part of Bayview and sometimes part of Outer Mission. The District Eight Democratic Club thinks we are an annex to the Excelsior District... or maybe Portola. The fact is we are unique, and effectively cut off from the rest of San Francisco by the hills and the freeway. San Mateo can't acknowledge us any more than San Francisco can. Florence Friedman used to say that we should secede from San Francisco and create our own City. In truth, our territory covers part of both counties. How does this relate to violence? Well, why do humans fight? Think of any argument between people you know. It all boils down to TERRITORY that was defined by SOMEONE ELSE.

Now, think about how WE define territory. We all have our own personal ideas of our territory. One thing for sure...human beings do define territory differently than governments and political forces. I am convinced of this is because of our cultures. Food, for instance, crosses all political boundaries. Pasta is found in Italy and China and the USA and... Turnovers, or Piroshki, or Pirogi, or Potstickers, or Tiropetas, or Pasties, or Gyoza, are found in America, Russia, Poland, China, Greece, England, Japan. Art, music and literature cross boundaries in a like manner.

Speaking
of Health

By Jacqueline W. Wasserman,
RN, FNP

Smoking has been in the forefront of the media more and more in the last few years. As studies confirm that smoking is related to cancer of the lung, larynx, esophagus, oral cavity, pancreas, kidney and bladder, attention has been drawn by the media to the public, in a campaign to stop smoking. Despite that, one in three Americans smoke cigarettes and tobacco remains a very profitable product.

With many habits, it takes time and forethought to make a change. It is known that nicotine in tobacco is addictive and that makes it difficult to break the habit. The benefits of stopping smoking obviously greatly outweigh the continuation of it. Some of the following facts may provide that extra push. A greater awareness of how smoking effects not only oneself, but one's family and friends, can propel a person to change.

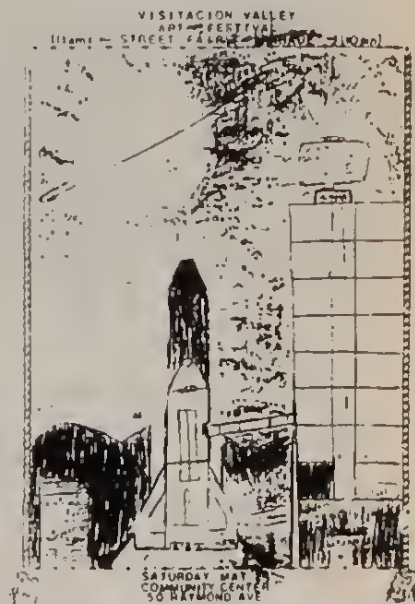
A recent Government report reveals the effects of cigarette smoke on nonsmokers. Children whose parents smoke tend to suffer from more colds, as well as bronchitis, pneumonia, and ear infections. It is also thought that a child's growth and lung development may be stunted from breathing in a parent's smoke. Nonsmokers who live with smokers are 30% more likely to develop lung cancer. These are scary facts - especially with regard to those people closest to us.

What and who are we? We define ourselves, but our spokesmen throughout history have not always been politicians, but have more often been our artists, poets, musicians, cooks.

We can and must define ourselves again. If we do not, we are giving our souls to politicians. We have to take charge again, but before we do so, we must find out who we truly are.

I invite you. I challenge you to join with me in

VALLEY POSTER CONTEST



POSTER DRAWN BY ROLLAN ESPINO OF EL DOHADO SCHOOL WAS AN ENTRY IN LAST YEAR'S CONTEST ANNOUNCING THE ARTS FESTIVAL THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL STREET FAIR AND PARADE TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY MAY 16 ENTRY BLANKS AND RULES FOR POSTER CONTEST WILL BE CIRCULATED THROUGH VISITACION VALLEY SCHOOLS AND AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AFTER FEBRUARY 15TH ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER SMALL CASH PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNING POSTER ARTISTS ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE RIBBONS

The following guidelines provided by the U.S. Public Health Dept. provide information on what steps to take to stop smoking. 1) Recognize that a drug dependence on nicotine exists. It is not a weak will that makes quitting difficult. 2) Quitting is a long-term process. Cravings for tobacco may occur years after stopping. 3) Attending a clinic or cessation group can be very helpful. Cancer Information Service has a toll-free hotline: 1-800-4-CANCER for information. 4) Seek the support and help of others. Attitudes and behavior of family and friends can have a strong influence. They should support you and recognize that smoking is more than a bad habit. It is an addiction.

defining Visitacion Valley again. The Community Center stands ready to listen to you and support you culturally, economically, artistically, futuristically. We will host community meetings, language classes, cooking classes, art classes, cultural programs, you name it! What is important to you, to all of us, in defining who we are? Let's prepare to enter a new, more thoughtful era together.

GRAPEVINE
VISITACION VALLEY

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Big Loss for Valley

REV. R. MARK COONRADT

Funeral services were held in New York City for the Rev. R. Mark Wallace Coonradt, former San Francisco minister and youth program leader.

He died at age 52 after a long illness.

From 1971 to 1984, the Rev. Coonradt was pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in San Francisco's Visitacion Valley.

In 1980 and 1981, he was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training.

Eunice Elton, executive director of the employment office, now called the Private Industry Council, said that the Rev. Coonradt "had a magic touch in raising money for youth programs."



REV. R. MARK COONRADT

Mayor Dianne Feinstein said "He was a man of

great compassion, totally dedicated to helping others. He was sorely missed when he left San Francisco."

A native of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., the Rev. Coonradt earned his master's degree in theology from Princeton Seminary and taught religion in Manhattan before coming to San Francisco.

In New York, he wrote two plays that were

produced off-Broadway, one about Robert Burns, called "Great Scot!" and the other about Plato and Moses, named "Burning Bushes."

He is survived by two sisters, Edith Burkes of Anaheim and Dorothy Cox of Schenectady, N.Y., and a brother, William of Hoosick Falls, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p. m. on February 1st at St. James Church, 240 Leland Avenue.

Parents Form New P.T.A.

By Rev. Willie Wright

Alvarado School P.T.A. is proud to be included in the Visitacion Valley Community Newspaper. Much progress is being made at our school and thanks must go to the parents at Geneva Towers for their increased support and enthusiasm. We will have our first major fundraising event with a

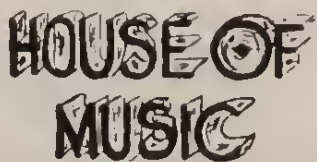
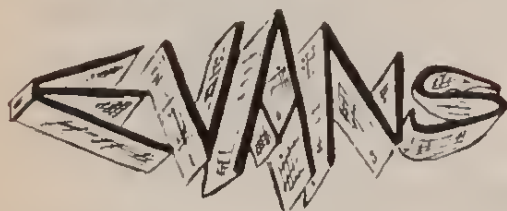
"Valentine Fiesta" at Ceaser's Latin Palace 3140 Mission St, Sunday February 8th 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.. Live music provided by the Latin All Stars, free food and a no-host bar. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the school.

Alvarado School is full of excitement and activity as the arts, dance and computer programs are now underway. We look forward to the continual

support of the parents from Visitacion Valley in making their child's experience at Alvarado one of success and happiness. Next PTA meeting Thursday, February 12th, 7:00 p.m. at Alvarado School. (Ed. note: 200 children from Geneva Towers are bused to Alvarado School for their elementary education. Parents of these children have formed a Geneva Towers branch of the PTA.)



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Performing Arts

by Len Appiano

Pleased with the exceptional array of talent exhibited in V.V.C.C. Theatre Works' holiday presentation, director Wendy Blair has scheduled the department's next production for three performances March 19, 20, and 21.

Theatre Works is currently seeking volunteers in both casting and backstage assistance for the forthcoming narrative.

Although presently untitled, Blair revealed that the new show's plot will be set in the future.

"It concerns the value of keeping in touch with our In presenting "Season's Greetings" last December, Theatre Works effectively combined the abilities of both youngsters and seniors in entertaining segments which appealed to all member of the audience.

Stage manager Gene Lee, who appeared in one skit as a roaming photographer, splendidly directed the show's choreography, assisting in the production's amusing "Celebrity Hokey- Pokey" segment.

Exceptionally entertaining were Isabel Laura and Jane Champion as a most convincingly grumpy oldster in "Steppin; Out," culminating with V.V.C.C.'s own Pat Crocker stepping into the act from a surprised audience.



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New School

Continued from Page 1

The school, the first built in San Francisco since 1969, was mandated as part of a federal court school integration order in the form of a Consent Decree with the NAACP. Students must apply for admission through Optional Enrollment (OER), and applications are screened through a computer to weigh the student's appropriateness in ethnicity,

siblings enrolled, and district residence. When a student is accepted for admission, parents and student must sign a contract stating their willingness to abide by the rules and regulations set down by the ParentTeacherStudent Association (PTSA). Also, students who receive less than a C grade must attend afternoon tutorials provided by Consent Decree funds.

Arts Center

Continued from Page 1

Designed by architect Mark Mack with landscape architect George Hargreaves and artist Doug Hollis, the Center has \$2.4 million appropriated, but still needs an additional \$1.5 million for completion. Hollis with a \$30,000 grant from the California

Arts Council has designed a "windgate" entrance using concealed organ pipes to enhance wind sounds, which means according to Nelson, "that someone walking into the center will be able to hear it as well as see it." An architect's model is on display at Bay View Federal Savings at 4947 Third Street.

After School Kicks

Continued from Page 1

Students participate in activities ranging from aerobics, gymnastics, and dance, to planning and creating shows to be performed for community parades or other after-school groups, to attending cultural events in the community. Madeline's daughter Gaycia Robinson works as dance and athletics coach for the kids, who range in age from pre-schoolers to the larger group of 11-13 year-olds. For all their efforts, the Robinsons only occasionally receive a small stipend from the After-school Intermural Sports Activities fund, but that is "not why (they) do it"; Madeline says it is more important to her that the kids have something to do, and that cultural

events are integrated into their lives. She has been supervising this program since she came to V.V.M.S.almost ten years ago. On this particular rainy afternoon, all the kids are girls, and most of them are in the 11-13 year-old group. With only a little shyness, they perform an intricate dance routine they are preparing. Gaycia watches them carefully, but no one needs prompting, or forgets where they are. They are having fun, and appear confident. Any kids who need something to do in the afternoons, and are interested in participating in a structured and fun program that often brings them into contact with community and cultural events is welcome to attend, Monday through Friday, from 2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FAME CONTEST BEGINS

The San Francisco Alliance of Black School Educators announces it sixth annual oratorical contest. The purpose of this competition is twofold: to encourage students to develop skills in the memorization, interpretation and delivery of famous speeches and poems, and to encourage students to develop the artistry of public speaking.

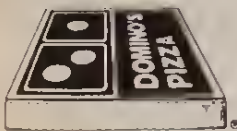
Open to any student enrolled in a San Francisco school from grades 1 through 12, the deadline for applications from either a sponsor or contestant must be received by February 7, 1987. For information, rules, procedures and applications contact Ms. Elvira Dundy, San Francisco Alliance of Black Educators, at 239-6200, ext. 13, Brenda Jackson at 386-1600 or Louis Garrett at 824-7050.

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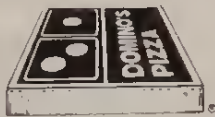
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WHEN THE VALLEY WAS YOUNG

By Len Appiano

Working as a lock assembler where facilities had largely converted to wartime bombshell production, Rose Donovan remembers her first candidacy for the title of Miss Schlage Lock.

She wasn't awarded the prestigious honor that time, but after 48 years of dedicated service, fellow employees voted the spirited worker Miss Schlage Lock of 1974 in a special honor during a most surprising retirement party.

During the time since V.V.C.C. founder Florence Friedman first assisted in gaining her employment at the firm, Rose advanced from production worker to lead woman in 1948, and eventually became a supervising foreman in the late 1960's.

Rose credits the late

community leader with coordinating a system whereby she was able to continue her education after commencing employment.

"If it weren't for Miss Friedman," she said, "many good things would not have gotten done. She was the backbone of the Valley."

Rose later represented the organization during the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exxposition in a booth at the Treasure Island fairgrounds.

As a lifelong member of the V.V.C.C., she has participated in many of the center's events, fondly recalling the weekly baby clinic in which a local newspaperman photographed her in 1926 caring for younger sister Mary.

Rose remains an active participant today, assisting in the center's Salvation Army lunch program.

Grapevine Puzzler

EVANS HOUSE OF MUSIC
OUR MERCHANT OF THE MONTH!

By Anne Kaartunen

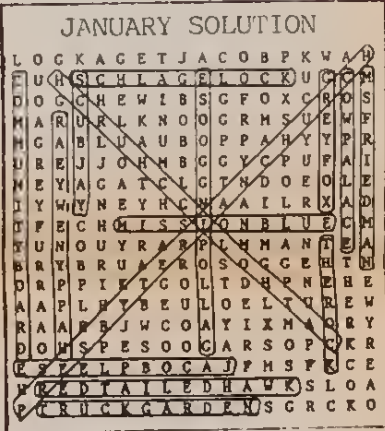
SOLUTION
NEXT
ISSUE

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CALENDAR

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How Do Your Gardens Grow?



By Hyoka Bells

Winter is here. It is the time to start thinking about spring planting. In the past few weeks I have received dozens of garden catalogs (wish books). My readers are invited to browse through any of them. Give me a call at 467-6400 and we will arrange a time.

The Community Garden has a few openings, first come- first served. A gardening class on Thursdays from 9:30a.m.-1:00p.m. is also looking for gardeners, of if

you like flowers, the Senior park always needs people to plant, weed and garden. To register for any of these free activities, call Hyoka 467-6400. Plant directly: beets, carrots, garlic sets, onion sets, peas, bush & pole (last week), potatoes, radishes, scallions, shallot sets, sweet peas. Transplant: bok-choy, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, collards, endive, kale, lettuce, mustard. Start in flats: vegetables: bok-choy, broccoli, chives, collards, leeks, lettuce, louage, onions, spinach. flowers: calendula, larkspur, linasia, nemesia, pansies, violets, snapdragons, stock. Final bare root planting and last minute pruning (before plants start budding out.) Do not compost any diseased materials.

Welcome Mat Out for New Merchants

By Anne Kaartunen

The merchants in our community are renewing their committment to support the residents desire for a safe and clean business area. The meeting of the Visitacion Valley Merchants Association, January 14th, echoed community concerns regarding traffic and pedestrian safety, needed improvements to create and maintain a clean and attractive

business area, and the need to actively support programs that will curtail the sale and use of illegal drugs. This Association of merchants is currently contacting former members to renew their affiliation (Dues are \$5.00 per month.) We need a strong, active Merchants Association in Visitacion Valley. The City Hall officials need to know that our community cares, takes initiative and follows through with commitments. We are a

part of San Francisco.

Welcome to the Valley: MIKE SWEETOW...new owner of the Hawaiian Restaurant, 198 Leland Ave., ad on page 4. CHUCK CRAWFORD...new owner of Valley Meats, 65 Leland ave., see ad on page 8. ALI HUSAIN, owner of McDonalds on Geneva Ave.

ESL Registration Begins

ADULTS WISHING TO LEARN ENGLISH MAY ENROLL IN THE ESL CLASSES NOW BEING OFFERED AT THE VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER: 50 RAYMOND AVE. CLASSES ARE HELD ON MONDAY-THURSDAY, 6:30 TO 9:00 P.M., EVERY WEEK. THE CLASSES ARE FREE.

ESL (INGLES COMO SEGUNDO IDIOMA) CLASES PARA ADULTOS

LOS ADULTOS QUE DESEEN APRENDER INGLES PUEDEN MATRICULARSE EN LAS CLASES DE ESL (INGLES COMO SEGUNDO IDIOMA). AHORA SE ESTA OFRECIENDO EN EL CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD DE EL VALLE DE VISITACION EN: 50 RAYMOND AVE. LAS CLASES SE LLEVAN ACABO DE LUNES A JUEVES DE 6:30 A 9:00 P.M. CADA SEMANA. LAS CLASES SON GRATIS.

KUNG NAIS NINONG MATUTUNG MAGSALITA NG INGLIS, MAGPATALA SA 50 RAYMOND STREET (VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER). ANG KLAS'E'Y TUWING LUNES HANGGANG HUWEBES, MULA SA 6:30p.m.- 9:00p.m. NG GABI ANG MGA KLASAY WALANG BAYAD.

成人英語班 (ESL) 開始註冊
成人想學英語現在可以來 Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave 報名。逢星期一至星期四, 6:30p.m. - 9:00p.m.
學英語是免費的。

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SportScene

By Frank Oddo

Most of us think of volleyball as a "nice" game to play at the beach or at a picnic. There is, however, a competitive side to the sport few americans are aware of. Those folks interested in learning and playing the game (no matter what age,sex, or skill level) are in luck also. City College of San Francisco offers great classes - days or evenings - beginners or intermediate level players. Additionally there is a tremendous range of gyms, leagues and outdoor play available throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area.

ELEMENTARY KICKBALL 1987

February 6

El Dorado at Ortega

February 20

Visitacion Valley at Ulloa

Lakeshore at El Dorado

February 27

Visitacion Valley at Jefferson

El Dorado at Sunnyside

Have a sport or sport like activity you want publicized? Call Frank Oddo at 467-2600 days or 467-4317 evenings.

Created by the YMCA's William J. Morgan in 1895, the game evolved as an alternative to basketball. Today volleyball is considered second only to soccer in international popularity.

The 1964 Olympics graced the sport with legitimacy and since then some of the dominant powers had been the Russians, Chinese, Japanese and Brazilians. The United States had fared poorly in international competition. The 1984 Olympics changed the volleyball fortunes and future for the USA. Unexpectedly, we sprang to the fore front of the volleyball world. The men's team won the gold medal and the women led by the late Flo Hyman brought honor to the women's team by winning silver medals.

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